

### **Remarks/Arguments**

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

The specification has been objected to for typographical errors. The errors have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The title has also been amended.

Initially, applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 2-7 and 9-12 would be allowable.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,614,161 to Frederick (the '161 patent).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. It is believed the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

Claims 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '161 patent.

It is believed that the Examiner's rejection should be overcome by new claim 8, and any dependent claims thereof. Furthermore, applicant would draw the Examiner's attention to the fact that the '161 patent cited by the Examiner would neither teach nor suggest to drive the needle in a rotation of about 540°, that is an additional rotation around its own axis of about 360° - in order to realize a torsion in the last lacing ring and to obtain a twisted last lacing ring- further to the rotation of 180° that is the rotation to turn up and down the hook extremity of the needle also provided for in the cited prior art (a basis for this can be found, for instance, at page 14, lines 3-7 and at page 15, lines

7-11 for the specification as originally filed). Therefore applicant urges it would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art to obtain the technical solution disclosed and claimed herein.

It is believed that the Examiner's rejections have been addressed and overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof is requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

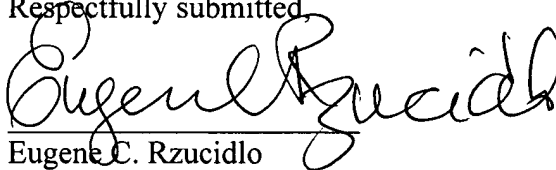
### AUTHORIZATION

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at [ecr@gtlaw.com](mailto:ecr@gtlaw.com).

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: March 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,  
By:   
Eugene C. Rzucidlo  
Registration No. 31,900  
Customer Number: 32361